Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADP-00 CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 USIA-12 AF-10 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 OIC-04 OMB-01

TRSE-00 SS-15 NSC-10 DODE-00 PA-03 PRS-01 L-03 SCI-06

HEW-08 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 AGR-20 RSR-01 /211 W

R 031240 Z MAR 73 FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7042

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XL, XM, US, UNESCO

SUBJECT: UNESCO REGIONAL GROUPING FOR LATIN AMERICA

REF: STATE 056794

DURING INFORMAL AND PERSONAL CONVERSATION MARCH 31, MINISTER SIMAS MAGALHAES, HEAD OF DEPT OF CULTURE AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION OF ITAMARATY, FRANKLY EXPRESSED SURPRISE TO EMBOFF IN REGARD TO APPROACH REFTEL WHICH HAD BEEN MADE PREVIOUS DAY. HE STATED HE AND ITAMARATY COLLEAGUES COULD NOT UNDERSTAND TIMING AND SUBSTANCE OF OUR REQUEST. WHY DID WE WANT TO GET INTO REGIONAL GROUPINGS AT THIS TIME? LA GROUP IS INEFFECTUAL ORGANIZATION GIVEN TO LITTLE ACTION AND MUCH EMOTIONAL TALK, DIRECTED PRIMARILY AGAINST U. S. DID WE NOT BELONG TO ENOUGH SUCH GROUPS AND DID WE NOT FEEL SUFFICIENTLY FRUSTRATED ABOUT INEFFECTUALNESS THESE GROUPS EXEMPLIFIED BY FREQUENT ISOLATED POSITIONS WE FIND OURSELVES IN, NECESSITATING ABSTENTIONS AND OPPOSING VOTES ON RESOLUTIONS?

SIMAS WENT ON TO STATE THAT US HAS; IN HIS VIEW, MORE INFLUENCE IN UNESCO THROUGH MEMBERSHIP ON EXECUTIVE BOARD AND MORE CLOUT BY MEANS OF BUDGET CONTRIBUTIONS THAN IT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COULD POSSIBLE EXERT THROUGH PARTICIPATION IN LA GROUPING:

IN REGARD TO SUPPORTING OUR REQUEST, HE STATED GOB WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER CAREFULLY WHETHER ITS SUPPORT WOULD BE HELPFUL. WOULD BRAZIL BE ISOLATED SUPPORTER THERBY INTENSIFYING ALREADY EXISTING SUSPICIONS ABOUT THE INTENTIONS OF THE TWO GEOGRAPHIC GIANTS ON CONTINENT? WOULD BRAZIL BE JOINED IN SUPPORT PERHAPS BY ONLY BOLIVIA, PARAGUAY AND NICARAGUA? WOULD SUCH LIMITED SUPPORT BE IN OUR INTEREST OR GOB'S? GOB WOULD WANT TO KNOW WHAT THE VIEWS OF OTHER LA COUNTRIES ARE AND WHETHER WE COULD COUNT ON BROAD SUPPORT ELSEWHERE BEFORE MAKING A COMMITMENT TO US. EMBOFF EMPHASIZED THAT OUR APPROACH AT THIS TIME IS MERELY EXPLORATORY.

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^{***} Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

^{***} Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

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TAGS: PFOR, US, XL, XM, UNESCO

To: IO SECSTATE WASHDC

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